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ARTHUR S. SOMERS, Ex-Commissioner of Education
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Several Papers on the Philosophy of the Composition of Verbs with Prepositions in Greek—as Illustrated by the Greek of Thucydides

FOURTH PAPER

INTERNAL MODIFICATION

For purposes of the present papers, verbs may be divided into two classes: those expressing actual motion, and those expressing potential motion. Verbs of actual motion include those verbs which express motion with its kind, direction or color more or less distinctly marked. Verbs of potential motion include verbs of existence, speech, thought, perception.

Verbs expressing relatively pure motion are rare, but language does not require many. The verbs *εἶμι*, *ἐρχομαι* (*ἐλθεῖν*) and more remotely, *βαίνω*, furnish the best examples of relatively pure motion in the language.

That *εἶμι* is well selected is attested by the following considerations: I It is used for various kinds of motion without distinction. Thus, for *walking*: *Il* 7 213: ποσσὶν ἦτε μακρὰ βιβάς; for *hastening*: *Od* 15 213: ἀλλ' αὐτὸς καλέων δούρ' εἴσεται; for *flight of birds*: *Il* 17 756; for the *motion of things*: *Il* 3 611; πέλεκυς εἰσιν διὰ δούρος; etc. II It is shown by the almost equal balance of the "whither" and "whence" relations as seen in the composition of the verb with the prepositions ἀπὸ and πρὸς, ἀπεμῖ occurring 33 times and πρόσμει 29 times. This consideration is not set aside by the fact that ἐπὶ occurs 83 times in composition with this verb, because ἐπὶ is hostile, the sphere of ἐπιέναι in Thucydides being military—a fact constantly to be borne in mind. Hence the preponderance of ἐπὶ is of no account in this connection.

**Ἐρχομαι* (*ἐλθεῖν*) is a good example also, as shown by the following facts: I It is frequently used with a supplementary participle showing the manner or the kind of the motion. Thus, *Il* 11 715: ἦλθε θέουσα; *id* 10 510: πεφοβημένος ἔλθης; *Od* 6 40: πόδεσσιν ἔρχεσθαι; *Il* 5 204: πεζὸς εἰλήλουθα; of *flying*: *Od* 14 334. In fact the use of this verb of the motion of spears,

javelins, or of natural phenomena such as rivers, wind and storm, clouds and stars, time and sound, is too frequent to need confirmatory references and quite sufficient to denote the relative purity of the idea of motion contained in it. II Another evidence is furnished by the fact that *ἐρχομαι* plays the part of present to both *ἦκω* and *οἶχομαι*, two verbs of motion with exactly opposite points of view. III Here again we find that same prepositional balance as in the case of *εἶμι*, except that in this case the prepositions are ἀπὸ and ἐπὶ, ἀπέρχομαι (*ἀπελθεῖν*) and ἐπέρχομαι (*ἐπελθεῖν*) each occurring 76 times.

Next to *εἶμι* and *ἐρχομαι* (*ἐλθεῖν*), though by a considerable interval, ranks *βαίνω*. In *βαίνω* at least the color becomes visible. Yet no little freedom is also here manifest, as a participle often accompanies the verb to show the kind of motion. Thus, *Il* 2 167: βῆ ἄξασα; and *id* 2 665: βῆ φεγγών. Another evidence is that certain tenses of *βαίνω* are represented by *εἶμι* and *ἐρχομαι* (*ἐλθεῖν*).

These three verbs, *εἶμι*, *ἐρχομαι* (*ἐλθεῖν*) and *βαίνω*, sustain very much the same relation to what are ordinarily classed in the grammars as verbs of motion, as *ποιέω* does to what are more broadly termed verbs of action.

The moment color is given to the motion of a verb, that moment internal modification sets in and the sphere of the verb is narrowed. The first curtailment is given to the idea of motion in the expression of its character or kind. Thus, βάλλω, πέμπω, πίπτω, φέρω, ἵστημι, τίθημι, ἔχω; and πλέω, θέω, τρέφω, etc. Still further curtailment, and more important in this connection, is seen in verbs which express with greater or less definiteness, the direction of their motion. Thus, ἦκω, οἶχομαι, διώκω, ἀκολουθέω, etc. Verbs in which the idea of motion is obscured or even lost in the color of the action, form another group, by far the largest, owing to the almost endless varieties of activity. As soon as a new activity is introduced into life, a new verb is created in language. Thus the history of the verb becomes the history of civilization. It is evident that verbs like *τειχίζω*, *βοηθέω*, *μάχομαι*, etc., have more color or are more picturesque than *εἶμι*, *πέμπω* or *ἦκω*; while verbs like *ἄρχω*, *κλέπτω*, *δίδναι*, *κτείνω*, etc., possess still less motion if not indeed also still more color. Thus, the idea of motion may be almost wholly supplanted as in verbs like *εὐδω* and *θυήσκω*. Thus we see that the idea of motion in

a verb is modified internally in color, kind or direction.

EXTERNAL MODIFICATION

In external modification the problem is simpler. It is not germane to our subject to discuss here the external limitations of motion effected by adverbial or abnominal means. Such influences do not effect any change in the character of the motion expressed by the verb. I have already defined what I mean by the term modification. External modification is limited to direction and hence to the prepositions. We have to do here with prepositions in composition only. Our subject might be stated thus: The limits set to external modification by internal modification. It is evident that certain kinds of motion are inconsistent with certain varieties of direction. Such limitations are natural. Again certain other kinds of motion may be so characteristic of certain departments of literature as to be confined more or less strictly to these departments. On the other hand, the department may be of such a nature as to exclude certain varieties of direction or of modification. Again, the affiliation of a certain kind of motion for a certain direction may be so strong as by that very fact to refuse affiliation with other directions in no way hostile in themselves, thus bringing about *usurpation* from the point of view of the direction, and *exclusion* from the point of view of motion. Such limitations are empirical and artificial.

Having thus seen that the principal elements at the basis of verb and preposition are motion, place, direction, let us see how these elements affect the composition of verbs with prepositions, so far as indicated by the language of Thucydides; and what light they throw on the questions of range, affinity, favoritism, loss of color, etc, announced at the beginning of our discussion.

Perhaps the most practical way of getting at a result is to collect all the verbs having the greatest combinable range of prepositions together, and place side by side with them those verbs having the next highest range, and so on to a point where a clear observation can be made of the change which takes place in the kind, direction or character of the motion expressed by them, as their prepositional ranges become narrower. See Table II, page 17, for a list arranged for this purpose.

As I have already shown, relatively pure motion is best seen in *εἶμι*, *έρχομαι*, (*ἐλθεῖν*) and *βαίνω*. This motion is stamped with a certain character in the verbs, *βάλλω*, *ἀγω*, *ἔχω*, *φέρω*, etc, is given manner in *πλέω*, *πίπτω*, *ίστημι*, *θέω*, etc, direction in *ἵκω*, *λείπω*, *ἐπομαι*, *διδάσκω*, etc, while in verbs like *μάχομαι*, *ἀναγκάζω*, etc, the color of the action is more prominent than the notion of motion, which continues to grow less in *ἄρχω*, *δέω*, *γελῶ*, and is scarcely felt at all in *ἀδικέω*, *εὐδω*, *θνήσκω*.

The same variation in color is also seen in verbs expressing potential motion. Thus, in verbs of existence, *εἶμι* and *γίγνομαι* may be taken as being most nearly colorless. The metaphysical idea of motion in such verbs often becomes physical when given direction. But the idea of motion fades out as the

idea of existence gives place to condition. Cf *ζάω*, *εὐδαιμονέω*.

In like manner, in the case of verbs of speech, *ἀγορεύω*, *εἶπον* and *λέγω* (*φημί* not occurring in composition) may be said to be most nearly colorless. But the idea of speech assumes character in *καλέω* and *γράφω*,* still more so in *βοάω*, *δείκνυμι*, still more so in *ψηφίζω-ομαι*, *δμνυμι*, *μαρτυρέω-ομαι*, and becomes faint in *διδάσκω*, *ὁμολογέω*.

Again in verbs of thought and perception. This variety of potential motion finds its purest expression in the verbs *νοέω-ομαι*, *γινώσκω* (*οἶομαι* not being used in composition), becoming colored in *κρίνω-ομαι* on the one hand, and in *εἶδον*, *ὄραω* and *ἀκούω* on the other; while in *μνησκόω*, *φοβέω* and *ἐλπίζω* the mobility of the thought is replaced by color, and in *αἰσθάνομαι* and *μανθάνω* the notions of thought and perception are mixed.

It appears therefore from this general survey of the combinable verbs, with the aid of the statistical tables given above, that the range of prepositions is largest in the case of those verbs which express motion most nearly in its purity, actual or potential, physical or in the form of existence, speech, thought, or perception; and as those notions give place to definition of color, kind or direction, the range of prepositions grows less. That is to say:

In general, the range of combinable prepositions of a verb is in direct ratio to the nearness with which the verb expresses pure motion.

Until other authors are examined in the same way, however, we cannot safely go further than to say that the indications for Thucydides point in this direction, and even here there are a few possible objections. These are not many and not difficult to answer.

DHH

* The constructions of *γράφω* justify this classification.

Professor Peck's Address before The Latin Club

In many ways, the fifth meeting of The Latin Club at the Hotel Albert on March 29, was the most interesting and stimulating yet held. Professor Peck, whose subject was the general one of Secondary Latin, took the ground that the Latin of the secondary schools should be planned for the average student, not for the student who was sure to go on with his Latin under any circumstances. Too much Latin was read in the secondary schools under the present system, and poorly read. Caesar should give place to interesting and easy portions of Livy. Cicero could stay, but only four or five orations: the four against Catiline and perhaps the Archias. For Vergil should be substituted the Odes of Horace and these should be read and reread and in many cases memorized. In fact quantity should give place to quality and the watchword should be "Learn to the last line". More attention should be paid to the writing of Latin Prose and the mastery of syntax. The vain attempt to meet vast requirements was the death of good Latin.

Owing to the Easter season not so many ladies were present as usual, but there was a larger representation of out-of-town teachers. The following new members were added to the roll: Sidney G Ashmore, Union College, Schenectady, N Y; J Edmund Barss, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn; Harry Thurston Peck, Columbia University; John J Schoonhoven, Brooklyn; William F Tibbetts, Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn.